

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 294

2026 Regular Session

Firment

TRESPASS: Provides places of worship the right to remove disruptive individuals

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Modifies proposed law to authorize a defendant in a civil case to file a motion asserting immunity. Upon the filing of the motion, proposed law requires the court to conduct a pretrial immunity hearing and dismiss the action if it determines, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the defendant is entitled to immunity.
2. Clarifies language regarding individuals who are lawfully present.
3. Clarifies language regarding the appropriate use of force.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law allows the use of force to exclude trespassers who refuse to leave certain private property.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that private property rights extend to churches and other places of worship and to persons who are lawfully present at churches and other places of worship, including the right to exclude people who trespass or cause substantial disruption.

Proposed law describes when the use of force is appropriate and provides immunity from liability when use of force is appropriately made.

Proposed law prohibits the use of deadly force except as otherwise provided in present law related to self-defense.

Proposed law provides for an immunity hearing in cases against a religious leader or lawfully present person at a church or other place of worship who uses force.

Proposed law allows for peaceful protests outside of the church or other place of worship that do not impede access to or from the church or other place of worship.

Proposed law defines "church or other place of worship", "religious leader", and "substantial disruption".

Proposed law adds churches and other places of worship to the list of places where people can use force or violence to prevent unlawful entry by another person.

(Amends R.S. 14:(A)(1)(b)(i) and (2) and (B)(intro. para.) and (1); Adds R.S. 13:5233.2)